

CLAIMS

I claim:

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1. A method of providing a local computer system user with detail information about at least one remote computer system user, comprising:

obtaining, by an awareness client application process executing on a local computer system from an associated awareness server application process executing on a
10 server computer system, an online status of said remote computer system user;

presenting, by said awareness client application process, an awareness object associated with said remote computer system user, wherein said awareness object includes an indication of said remote computer system user, wherein said awareness object further includes a visual indication of said online status of said remote computer
15 system user;

obtaining, by said awareness client application process on said local computer system, responsive to said presenting said awareness object associated with said remote computer system user, detail information regarding said remote user, wherein said detail information is obtained from a detail information database server process separate from
20 said awareness server application process;

detecting a selection of said awareness object associated with said remote computer user by said local computer system user; and

presenting, by said awareness client application process, said detail information regarding said remote computer system user in a display for said local computer system.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

5 conveying, in association with a user identifier for said remote computer system user, an identifier of said detail information database server process from said awareness application server process to said awareness application client process;

 determining, by said awareness application client process in response to said selecting of said awareness object associated with said remote computer system user, said
10 identifier of said detail information database server process; and

 wherein said obtaining said detail information regarding said remote computer system user is performed by said awareness application client process over a communications network using said identifier of said detail information database server process.

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3. The method of claim 2, wherein said obtaining said detail information regarding said remote computer system user is performed through an application programming interface to said detail information database server process.

20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein said presenting said graphic indication of said remote computer system user comprises presenting said graphic indication of said remote user in a display window for an application process executing in said local computer system separately from said awareness client application process.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said presenting said detail information regarding said remote computer system user presents said detail information through a pop-up display window.

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6. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

presenting an interface to said local user, wherein said interface enables said local user to indicate whether detail information regarding said local user is to be shared with other users.

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7. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

presenting an interface to said local user, wherein said interface enables said local user to specify detail information regarding said local user that is to be shared with other users.

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8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:

presenting an interface to said local user, wherein said interface enables said local user to specify one or more other users with which detail information regarding said local user is to be shared.

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9. A system for providing a local computer system user with detail information about at least one remote computer system user, comprising:

means for obtaining, by an awareness client application process executing on a local computer system from an associated awareness server application process executing on a server computer system, an online status of said remote computer system user;

means for presenting, by said awareness client application process, a graphic
5 indication of said remote computer system user in a display for said local computer system, wherein said graphic indication of said remote computer system user includes a visual indication of said online status of said remote computer system user, an awareness object associated with said remote computer system user, wherein said awareness object includes a visual indication of said remote computer system user, wherein said awareness
10 object further includes a visual indication of said online status of said remote computer system user;

means for obtaining, by said awareness client application process on said local computer system, responsive to said means for presenting said awareness object associated with said remote computer system user, detail information regarding said
15 remote user, wherein said detail information is obtained from a detail information database server process separate from said awareness server application process;

means for detecting a selection of said awareness object associated with said remote computer user by said local computer system user; and

means for presenting, by said awareness client application process, said detail
20 information regarding said remote computer system user in a display for said local computer system.

10. The system of claim 9, further comprising:

means for conveying, in association with a user identifier for said remote computer system user, an identifier of said detail information database server process from said awareness application server process to said awareness application client process;

5 means for determining, by said awareness application client process in response to said selecting of said awareness object associated with said remote computer system user, said identifier of said detail information database server process; and

wherein said means for obtaining said detail information regarding said remote computer system user operates within said awareness application client process over a
10 communications network using said identifier of said detail information database server process.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein said means for obtaining said detail information regarding said remote computer system user operates through an application
15 programming interface to said detail information database server process.

12. The system of claim 9, wherein said means for presenting said graphic indication of said remote computer system user comprises means for presenting said graphic indication of said remote user in a display window for an application process executing in said local
20 computer system separately from said awareness client application process.

13. The system of claim 9, wherein said means for presenting said detail information regarding said remote computer system user presents said detail information through a pop-up display window.

5 14. The system of claim 9, further comprising:

means for presenting an interface to said local user, wherein said interface enables said local user to indicate whether detail information regarding said local user is to be shared with other users.

10 15. The system of claim 9, further comprising:

means for presenting an interface to said local user, wherein said interface enables said local user to specify detail information regarding said local user that is to be shared with other users.

15 16. The system of claim 9, further comprising:

means for presenting an interface to said local user, wherein said interface enables said local user to specify one or more other users with which detail information regarding said local user is to be shared.

20 17. A computer program product, wherein said computer program product includes a computer readable medium, said computer readable medium having a computer program for providing a local computer system user with detail information about at least one remote computer system user stored thereon, said computer program comprising:

program code for obtaining, by an awareness client application process executing on a local computer system from an associated awareness server application process executing on a server computer system, an online status of said remote computer system user;

5 program for presenting, by said awareness client application process, a graphic indication of said remote computer system user in a display for said local computer system, wherein said graphic indication of said remote computer system user includes a visual indication of said online status of said remote computer system user, an awareness object associated with said remote computer system user, wherein said awareness object
10 includes a visual indication of said remote computer system user, wherein said awareness object further includes a visual indication of said online status of said remote computer system user;

program code for obtaining, by said awareness client application process on said local computer system, responsive to said means for presenting said awareness object
15 associated with said remote computer system user, detail information regarding said remote user, wherein said detail information is obtained from a detail information database server process separate from said awareness server application process;

program code for detecting a selection of said awareness object associated with said remote computer user by said local computer system user; and

20 program code for presenting, by said awareness client application process, said detail information regarding said remote computer system user in a display for said local computer system.

18. The computer program product of claim 17, said computer program further comprising:

program code for conveying, in association with a user identifier for said remote computer system user, an identifier of said detail information database server process
5 from said awareness application server process to said awareness application client process;

program code for determining, by said awareness application client process in response to said selecting of said awareness object associated with said remote computer system user, said identifier of said detail information database server process; and

10 wherein said program code for obtaining said detail information regarding said remote computer system user operates within said awareness application client process over a communications network using said identifier of said detail information database server process.

15 19. The computer program product of claim 18, wherein said program code for obtaining said detail information regarding said remote computer system user operates through an application programming interface to said detail information database server process.

20 20. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein said program code for presenting said graphic indication of said remote computer system user comprises program code for presenting said graphic indication of said remote user in a display window for an application process executing in said local computer system separately from said awareness client application process.

21. The computer program product of claim 17, wherein said program code for presenting said detail information regarding said remote computer system user presents said detail information through a pop-up display window.

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22. The computer program product of claim 17, said computer program further comprising:

presenting an interface to said local user, wherein said interface enables said local user to indicate whether detail information regarding said local user is to be shared with other users.

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23. The computer program product of claim 17, said computer program further comprising:

presenting an interface to said local user, wherein said interface enables said local user to specify detail information regarding said local user that is to be shared with other users.

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24. The computer program product of claim 17, said computer program further comprising:

presenting an interface to said local user, wherein said interface enables said local user to specify one or more other users with which detail information regarding said local user is to be shared.

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25. A system for providing a client computer system user with detail information about at least one remote computer system user stored thereon, comprising:

program code, stored in a computer readable memory communicably coupled
5 processor within a client computer system, for obtaining, by an awareness client application process executing on said client computer system, from an associated awareness server application process executing on a server computer system, an online status of said remote computer system user;

program code, stored in said computer readable memory, for presenting, by said
10 awareness client application process, a graphic indication of said remote computer system user in a display for said local computer system, wherein said graphic indication of said remote computer system user includes a visual indication of said online status of said remote computer system user, an awareness object associated with said remote computer system user, wherein said awareness object includes a visual indication of said remote
15 computer system user, wherein said awareness object further includes a visual indication of said online status of said remote computer system user;

program code, stored in said computer readable memory, for obtaining, by said awareness client application process on said local computer system, responsive to said program code for presenting said awareness object associated with said remote computer
20 system user, detail information regarding said remote user, wherein said detail information is obtained from a detail information database server process separate from said awareness server application process;

program code, stored in said computer readable memory, for detecting a selection of said awareness object associated with said remote computer user by said local computer system user; and

program code, stored in said computer readable memory, for presenting, by said
5 awareness client application process, said detail information regarding said remote computer system user in a display for said local computer system.

26. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, said computer data signal including at least one computer program for providing a local computer system user with
10 detail information about at least one remote computer system user, said computer program comprising:

program code for obtaining, by an awareness client application process executing on a local computer system from an associated awareness server application process
executing on a server computer system, an online status of said remote computer system
15 user;

program for presenting, by said awareness client application process, a graphic indication of said remote computer system user in a display for said local computer system, wherein said graphic indication of said remote computer system user includes a visual indication of said online status of said remote computer system user, an awareness
20 object associated with said remote computer system user, wherein said awareness object includes a visual indication of said remote computer system user, wherein said awareness object further includes a visual indication of said online status of said remote computer system user;

program code for obtaining, by said awareness client application process on said local computer system, responsive to said means for presenting said awareness object associated with said remote computer system user, detail information regarding said remote user, wherein said detail information is obtained from a detail information
5 database server process separate from said awareness server application process;

program code for detecting a selection of said awareness object associated with said remote computer user by said local computer system user; and

program code for presenting, by said awareness client application process, said detail information regarding said remote computer system user in a display for said local
10 computer system.